

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101

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February 1, 1991

FCC Hits Baxter With Fifth Fine! Total Hits \$3,400

International Amateur Radio Network (IARN) founder **Glenn Baxter/K1MAN** of Belgrade Lakes, Maine has again been cited by the FCC for alleged violations of Part 97. Although several other amateurs have been cited and fined for violative operations on the HF bands, Baxter's \$3,400 fine total now registers the highest dollar amount.

K1MAN contends the FCC does not have the authority to levy fines - only *Notices of Apparent Liability (NAL)*. "Only the courts can impose fines." He objects to the forfeitures being called fines since "...it carries an implication of guilt."

K1MAN's 45-minute broadcasts are transmitted 44 times a week on 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters. He has paid none of the forfeitures and has threatened the FCC with a lawsuit. Meanwhile, his transmissions continue generally as before. One exception is that he now refers to his transmissions as "bulletins" instead of "broadcasts" most of the time. The transmissions still elicit catcalls and QRM from unidentified amateurs.

The first violation notice, sent last August, did not carry a fine. It was followed by several NAL's, each of which carried monetary forfeitures.

In September, Baxter was fined \$1,000 for allegedly interfering with amateur communications already in progress. That NAL also included a

\$500 fine for allegedly engaging in broadcasting. In November the FCC cited Baxter for \$300, this time for allegedly facilitating IARN business in announcements made in his daily transmissions.

The latest NAL came from Barry A. Bohac, Engineer-in-Charge of the FCC's Belfast, Maine field office. Bohac doubled the amounts of the previous business and broadcasting fines.

"You are apparently liable for a forfeiture of \$1,600 due to your violation of the Commission's Rules and Regulations," Bohac wrote K1MAN on Jan. 11. "\$1,000 is for repeated incidents of broadcasting (second NAL for this offense) and \$600 (second NAL) is for repeatedly broadcasting announcements that solicit for the purpose of facilitating IARN business affairs.

"Specifically, on November 11, 1990 you engaged in broadcasting on 3.975, 14.275 and 28.475 MHz in violation of 47 CFR §97.113(c). [That means Title 47 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Rule 97.113(c) - Ed.] Also, on December 17, 1990 you broadcast announcements soliciting membership in *International Amateur Radio Network*. This activity is a facilitation of business affairs and therefore is in violation of 47 CFR §97.113(a). ...

"...You are granted 30 days from the date of this Notice to pay the forfeiture or give reasons why it

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The signals in question

Bohac provided lengthy transcripts of K1MAN transmissions. It turns out that much of what irked the FCC was an interview Baxter had with Dave Larson/KK4WW. Larson operated a program to send Christmas trees to U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. He asked listeners to call a tree-farmer's 800 toll-free number to offer services to transport the trees.

Bohac also cited a K1MAN transmission of a Newsline installment. **Roy Neal/K6DUE** asked listeners to help Newsline editor **Bill Pasternak/-WA6ITF**, obtain video tapes showing coverage of the latest SAREX space mission. Later in the transmission, K1MAN invited listeners to send him blank cassettes on which he would record a series of programs relating to FCC enforcement. He solicited membership in IARN by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, and listed telephone, FAX and computer bulletin-board phone numbers.

K1MAN's response

From the IARN bulletin January 19, 1991:

"K1MAN has received yet another *Notice of Apparent Liability* for \$1,600 dated 11 January 1991 from Engineer-in-Charge Barry Bohac of Belfast, Maine FCC monitoring station for alleged 'broadcasting' and 'facilitating business affairs' on amateur radio.

"K1MAN's response will be another demand for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge in Washington D.C. and that (sic) the charges are false and even politically motivated. IARN attorneys are as confident as ever of a favorable and precedent setting outcome with regard to the IARN information bulletin service. The notices mean very little unless they are upheld in court, and the FCC is avoiding court where they

"One counter charge against the FCC Engineer-in-Charge, Barry Bohac, is his inaction on a complaint of his own criminal obstruction of justice with regard to charges of criminal interference to emergency communications during the Iranian and Philippine earthquakes last summer. A suit against Bohac in Federal District Court for tort liability, defamation and obstruction of justice in this matter is in the works. Obstruction of justice in prosecution of a felony is, of course, itself a felony.

"Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, a long time friend and supporter of IARN, takes a dim view of corruption within the Federal Government, and first became well known for this sentiment by his stern remarks to Colonel Oliver North on national television during the Iran-Contra hearings."

[End bulletin.]

At presstime, the FCC had not yet been notified of the filing of a lawsuit against Bohac. In addition to the \$3,400 and lawsuit, the Commission is awaiting the response of K1MAN and other net managers to the Feb. 2 deadline in the HF Net Inquiry. The FCC asked for information on the amateur community's plans to resolve the interference problems on HF, and at Baxter's request it extended the deadline for hams to send additional responses to the FCC.

K1MAN and the Mid-East

On January 21, **Glenn Baxter/K1MAN** FAXed a letter to Jordan's **Colonel Shrukri, JY1AK**, at the Royal Palace in Amman. JY1AK is the Communication's Chief of Staff in Jordan. Baxter offered the services of his IARN group in IRAQ "...as totally neutral parties to check on POW's and verify their welfare..." since the International Red Cross/-Geneva is not yet in Iraq. K1MAN says IARN had been receiving many inquiries about prisoners of war including some from CNN and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Baxter asked that his offer be conveyed to His Majesty King Hussein (JY1) for presentation to

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?
 I am a currently licensed ☐ Advanced, ☐ Extra Class amateur radio
 operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my
 station or operator license revoked or suspended., I do not own a sig-

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President Saddam Hussein. A copy of the letter went to **San Voron, VK2BVS**, IARN Mideast Project Director.

Baxter also says his multinational *Amateur Radio Peace Corps* delegation remains in Iraq on the Saudi border to assist with international humanitarian relief, the refugee problem and distribution of supplies. The group is headed up by **Steve Blair/VK2BZB**. The other 11 members are not licensed amateurs. According to K1MAN, the group is called the Amateur Radio Peace Corps because it is organized by IARN.

There are no private ham stations on the air from the mid-east war zone, Baxter said. The only amateur activity is on MARS frequencies and consists primarily of messages to and from relatives of the military. K1MAN says all information coming to IARN is via CNN, the only broadcasters electing to remain operational in Baghdad.

KV4FZ files petition with FCC

The FCC has received a *Petition for Review and Clarification of the Rules §97.101(d)* from **Herb Schoenbohm, KV4FZ** of Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands. §97.101(d) states "No amateur operator shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication or signal."

The petition contends:

- (1.) KV4FZ has received a \$1,000 Notice of Forfeiture for violation of §97.101(d);
- (2.) "due to the nature of multiple frequency access" a large amount of interference occurs daily;
- (3.) most HF interference is caused by spectrum crowding;
- (4.) the FCC uses §97.101(d) "as a steel trap" to punish whomever the Commission selects "...without any significant due legal process."
- (5.) the rule "unfairly stifles public spirited amateur activism";
- (6.) the rule "...is broad and vague and ...may not be constitutional."
- (7.) "...a wide range of views clearly exist concerning the application of this subject rule" making defense by the licensee impossible;

- (8.) §97.101(d) needs review and clarification "...to repair the inequities ...and make the necessary distinctions between incidental harmless interference and the obviously more serious willful and malicious interference..."

Shoenbohm requested "...that until a full hearing on this matter has taken place, and the inequities of the rule corrected, the matter of the *Notice of Apparent Liability* ...be set aside or dismissed in favor of the petitioner."

In a separate *Petition for Reconsideration* of the fine, KV4FZ maintains the amount of the forfeiture "...is excessive and unprecedented compared to any other Commission action against licensees in the same circumstances."

He added, "There is evidence that this action by the Commission was generated ...because of political pressure by the American Radio Relay League; ...The transmissions of my station ...were legal and proper and the remarks are protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; ...The Commission's demand for monetary forfeiture does not allow for a plea, it assumes, if the forfeiture was paid, that the licensee admits guilt ...and [is] a subtle blow to liberty."

Reverse Patriotism?

In the January issue of **14.313 MHz Net News**, editor **Bob Brown/AA4DY** suggests that **Herb Schoenbohm/KV4FZ** may not be patriotic. He says that during the evening of December 22 that KV4FZ had a two hour 20 meter QSO with WA2EXQ "...about all the reasons why our troops should not be in the Persian Gulf."

Brown said the remarks "...defamed our country and made demoralizing statements. It was out-and-out broadcasting of their personal views ...made for the world to hear. Propagation was just right for it to be heard in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Saddam Hussein would have loved the content."

"Pro's and con's of such a sensitive political issue doesn't foster international goodwill and is one of those subjects that should not be discussed on

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worldwide amateur radio," he added. "A copy of the taped conversation and transcript will be made available to any U.S. Government official requesting same...."

Desert Storm brings rumor QRM

The FCC is getting scores of phone calls from nervous amateurs who want to know the details of the special Amateur Radio procedures under Operation Desert Storm. Some hams were apparently alerted by rumors or bulletins transmitted by local and national nets. The announcements seemed to state that the FCC did, or did not, order U.S. hams off the air or that it took special actions relating to amateur operation during the Gulf crisis.

"The amount of nonsense going around on this is unbelievable," one staff member commented. There are no special Desert Storm amateur procedures. No Communications Emergency has been declared. The FCC took no amateur actions related to Desert Storm -- other than to interrupt work to answer the many phone inquiries. U.S. hams may operate as normal. They may even contact Iraqi ham stations if they can find any!

The FCC does maintain a Prohibited List of countries whose administrations have requested no intercommunication with U.S. amateurs. But the Prohibited List is entirely empty! This list is required by Article 32, Section 51 of the International Radio Regulations. There are no entries on it at this time.

Nor has there been a Presidential Finding, required by Section 706 of the Communications Act, to order the FCC to order hams off the air. Section 706(c) reads: Upon proclamation by the President that there exists war or a threat of war or a state of public peril or disaster or other national emergency, or in order to preserve the neutrality of the United States, the President may suspend or amend, for such time as he sees fit, the rules and regulations applicable to any or any stations ...and may cause the closing of any station for radio communication ...and the removal therefrom of its apparatus and equipment, or he may authorize the use or control of any such station ...and/or its apparatus and equipment by any

department of the Government under such regulations as he may prescribe, upon just compensation to the owners..."

There is a list of countries with which the U.S. has third-party amateur traffic agreements. There have been no changes to this list related to Desert Storm. Third-party traffic may be handled with Israel (4X, 4Z) and Jordan (JY).

In addition, the United States maintains Amateur Service reciprocal operating arrangements with Israel, Jordan ...and technically even Kuwait which Iraq has annexed!

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of January 1991:

Radio District	Gp. "A" Extra	Gp. "B" Advan.	Gp. "C" Tech/Gen	Gp. "D" Novice
0 (*)	AA0DE	KF0OY	N0MVF	KB0IEE
1	WO1J	KC1ZA	N1IJD	KA1YBO
2 (*)	AA2CY	KE2YQ	N2LOF	KB2LXI
3	WI3T	KD3VK	N3IUE	KA3YHI
4 (*)	AC4BU	KN4UW	(***)	KC4VHA
5 (*)	AA5WT	KI5MR	N5RXM	KB5OOX
6 (*)	AB6AN	KK6VH	(***)	KC6QQB
7 (*)	AA7HF	KG7LW	N7QCI	KB7MLI
8 (*)	AA8CY	KF8KY	N8NGD	KB8LMH
9	WY9P	KF9AZ	N9KKN	KB9FZO
N. Mariana Is.	AH0J	AH0AG	KH0AM	WH0AAP
Guam	KH2O	AH2CI	KH2EV	WH2AMU
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AE	WH3AAH
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AE	WH4AAG
Hawaii	(**)	AH6KV	NH6YC	WH6CJT
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8D	AH8AD	KH8AI	WH8ABA
Wake W. Peale	AH9A	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7MR	NL7VU	WL7BZW
Virgin Is.	NP2J	KP2BV	NP2EB	WP2AHF
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4RM	(***)	WP4JST

CALL SIGN WATCH: * = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned in the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and "0" radio districts. ** = All Group A (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2 AA-AK prefix) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class amateurs when Group "A" calls are depleted. *** = Group "C" call signs have now run out in both the 4th and 6th ...and in the Puerto Rico call sign district. (Group "D" being assigned.)

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, PA]

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who is involved in the ham radio license tests, amateurs want to know about amateur radio license tests, amateurs

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HANDICAPPED CODE EXEMPTIONS PROTESTED

Dennis C. Brown of Arlington, Va, has filed what appears to be a professionally completed *Petition for Reconsideration* with the FCC protesting their handling of PR Docket 90-356. The objective of this proceeding is to make the Amateur Radio Service more accessible to persons with handicaps.

Basically the new FCC Rules eliminate the need for disabled persons to pass more than a five word-per-minute telegraphy examination - and even then, the test may be administered one character at a time with pauses between each character for a response from the applicant. This "accommodation" is to conform to International Radio Regulations which require code proficiency as a prerequisite to high frequency (under 30 MHz) amateur operation.

Brown charges that the FCC failed to consider his comments or the issues he raised. He contends that "If demonstration of a level of skill is required to protect the public interest before a person is authorized to exercise a certain privilege, then it is not reasonable to waive the requirement for any applicant. On the other hand, if the public interest does not require that an applicant demonstrate a certain level of proficiency, then there is no valid reason to maintain the requirement for any applicant."

Brown believes the Commission "...failed to consider reasonable alternatives to its action, including an alternative employed with respect to Commercial Radio Operators. It also failed to demonstrate changed facts or circumstances which would justify a change in its Rules. ...A demonstration that one 'knows' the Morse code is not identical to the international requirement that an examinee demonstrate the ability to receive Morse code by ear and send it by hand."

Brown questions the FCC's rationale. "In deciding whether a person shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle, it is not customary to exempt blind persons from the vision test on the basis that a handicap prevents their passing it. In deciding whether a person shall be permitted to control an aircraft, it is not customary to exempt persons with

weak hearts from demonstrating the requisite level of physical fitness on the basis that a handicap prevents them from demonstrating that they are likely to survive a flight. However, without considering, by fact or reason, whether the public interest would be served by permitting unqualified persons to share access to a certain congested portion of the public spectrum, the Commission determined that a person who cannot pass a necessary test need no do so."

"...the Commission failed to consider whether it should similarly issue a higher grade of license to a handicapped operator, but restrict an operator who is not able to demonstrate proficiency in high speed Morse code from using those bands which are allocated for high speed Morse code. Such an action would be entirely reasonable and consistent with disposition of similar situations by comparable government agencies."

"Under the Part 13 Commercial Radio Operators Rules, the Commission will issue a license to a handicapped person who is unable to demonstrate his qualifications. However, the license is restrictively endorsed to bar operation of a station which is required to be provided for safety purposes. In view of the repeatedly acknowledged importance of the Amateur Radio Service to public safety during disasters and emergencies, the Commission may desire to consider issuing upgraded licenses to handicapped persons, subject to an endorsement that the license was not valid for operation on frequencies allocated for persons who have demonstrated proficiency in high rate Morse code."

Brown also maintains that "knowing" 43 telegraphy characters is not the same as "...proving that one can send them by hand and receive them by ear." He argues VE's employing a sending test for a person who is unable to pass a receiving test may demonstrate that the examinee 'knows' the Morse code but fails to comply with the international law requiring ability to send and receive Morse code. He says "The Commission adopted an unlawful rule" and "...requests that the Commission reconsider its action..."

(Petition for Reconsideration filed Jan. 8, 1991)

ARRL COMMENTS ON WARC-92 INQUIRY

The American Radio Relay League submitted its comments in response to the FCC's inquiry looking toward preparation for the World Administrative Radio Conference scheduled for February 3 to March 5, 1991 in Spain (WARC-92).

High frequency broadcasting...

Of particular interest is the proposed expansion of the HF broadcasting bands and its effect on the 40 and 80 meter ham bands. While the League does not necessarily endorse HF broadcasting expansion, it feels the FCC did take what appears to be a reasonable balance of the competing interests. The Commission is leaning toward relocating the 40 meter ham band down 100 kHz; from 7000-7300 kHz to 6900-7200 kHz. (7000-7200 kHz would be *Amateur Exclusive*; 6900-7000 kHz *Amateur Primary* and *Land Mobile Secondary*.)

"It is clear that the broadcasters want to broadcast more, and that technically they need more spectrum in order to do so. Where, however, is the listener demand for additional HF broadcasting that cannot be satisfied by better quality delivery systems? The League suggests that there is none."

The League took extremely harsh exception to the comments of Stanley Leinwoll who "...praised the Amateur Services on one hand while proposing to cripple the Amateur Services by taking of significant amounts of critical HF spectrum on the other."

Leinwoll wants the 3500-3650 kHz [80 meter Amateur] segment relocated to the broadcasting service. He believes that narrower [ham] bands at 3.5 and 7 MHz can be successfully used [by amateurs] without adverse effect given "...proper planning and assignment of frequencies."

After reciting the accolades to the service, Leinwoll said "...that the uses made of the amateur bands are frivolous, and that large amounts of spectrum are allocated to the Service, the loss of portions of which will not disrupt Amateur communications." The League countered by saying the 3.5 and 7 MHz allocations "...are without a doubt the most overcrowded of the amateur allocations" and "The

loss of any segment within those bands would result in the absolute inability of the Amateur Radio Service to provide reliable international emergency and disaster communications within Region 2 and worldwide."

Low Earth Orbiting Satellites...

The ARRL also addressed Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) allocations below 1 GHz. It noted that a consensus of LEO mobile-satellite system (MSS) proponents believe that the 137-138 MHz and 148-149.9 MHz segments are appropriate allocations for such systems. Other commercial firms, however, felt that 173.4-174 MHz, 400.15-400.3 MHz, and 420-421 MHz was more appropriate.

Only the 420-421 MHz segment directly affects the Amateur Service. The Executive Branch is opposing this allocation as government radiolocation allocations would be adversely affected. The ARRL said that government radiolocation has proven to be a compatible sharing partner with the Amateur Service. The League opposes relocation to LEO systems "...because the 420-421 MHz band contains the vestigial sideband of an existing 420-426 MHz amateur television channel."

The League also opposed sharing the 420-421 MHz band with LEO MSS due to "...unacceptable interference to amateur stations within the large footprint of a satellite because of the high power flux densities needed to permit use of simple mobile antennas."

Broadcasting Satellite Service...

The ARRL said a general consensus supports satellite broadcasting below 2 GHz. Broadcasting from satellites is not feasible above this level because of the need for excessively high transmitter power to support the signal quality, number of channels and geographical coverage needed for a viable BSS.

The League urged the Commission to rule out the 2390-2450 MHz [ham] band for satellite broadcasting. "The Amateur Service ...requires continued access to the 2390-2450 MHz band for future (terrestrial) systems, as it is experiencing an upward migration in frequency in the same time frame as other services."

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● Volunteer testing teams of L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, hold their monthly VE exams at the former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Depot in Mt. Clemens. Built in 1859, it is now the site of the Michigan Transit Museum. It is also where Thomas Edison learned telegraphy in 1863 while working for the railroad. Their next test session is Feb. 16, two days after the effective date of the new Codeless Technician license class.

● On January 15th, the ARRL submitted reply comments on establishing a new (commercial) Personal Communications Service. The FCC is looking into permitting the creation of new Personal Communications Services (PCS's) such as advanced cordless telephones and portable radio systems for personal use.

The ARRL agreed that the PCS proceeding was not the proper forum for spectrum allocation issues due to the planning now underway for WARC-92.

It took particular aim at the comments of Michael C. Trahos/KB4PGC who suggested the use of 1260-1270 and 1288-1294 MHz (shared ham spectrum) subbands as a prime candidate for relocation to PCS use. He said "Commission investigation of these subbands will ...reveal insufficient loading..."

The ARRL called his comments "a disjointed, ...largely irrelevant tirade concerning the failure of the Amateur Radio Service to embrace a codeless amateur radio license in the configuration that Trahos apparently advocates." Trahos supports a codeless Novice class.

The League also pointed out that the 1240-1300 MHz band is not under consideration for PCS.

Trahos said he was merely responding to paragraph 15 of the FCC's Notice of Inquiry which "...solicits comments on other

spectrum options that may serve the requirements of CT-2." [Second generation cordless telephone service.] "In particular, commenters should address the possibility of using any other bands of spectrum below 3 GHz."

● The price of QSLing goes up on February 3rd. The Postal Rate Commission unanimously agreed to a 4-cent increase to 29¢ to mail a one-ounce letter - a 16% hike. The U.S. Postal Service had asked for a 20% increase to 30¢.

It cost 2¢ to mail a one-ounce letter in 1885 and only 5¢ as late as 1965. The rate has climbed straight up since then; the last increase taking place three years ago. Here are the new rates:

Letters,	Rate	Increase
1st ounce:	29¢	16%
Addit. oz:	23¢	15%
Mexico	35¢	40%
Canada	40¢	33%
Cards	19¢	27%
Mexico	30¢	
Canada	30¢	
Priority Mail		
to 2 lb.	\$2.90	21%
Express/to 8 oz.		
to P.O.	\$8.35	8%
Addressee (2-lb.)	\$9.95	15%
	\$13.95	

You may anticipate an increase in your favorite magazine subscription rates also. Second class postal rates for periodicals went up an average of 25%. Fourth Class/Parcel Post +18%. Lowest increases went to mailers presorting and barcoding mail. We still do not have the international rates yet.

Reluctantly we will be increasing our W5YI Report subscription rates to: \$24.50/year, \$45.00/2-yrs, \$64.00/3 yrs. (\$39.50 Foreign/-year.) Our last increase was three years ago. Until February 15 we will allow any subscriber to renew at the old rates (see front page/-bottom) for up to three years.

● Packet radio communications were carried out last week between the Soviet *Mir* space station and many ground stations on 145.50 MHz. Callsigns of U2MIR and U2MIR-1 were used. Mir now has a fully operational packet radio bulletin board system, complete with standard PBBS command system capable of supporting mail exchanges between users as well as disseminating news bulletins to all users of the system.

The U2MIR-1 BBS system is compatible with standard 1200 baud 2-meter FM packet stations currently in existence all over the world. No special TNCs or external PSK modems are required for access. Downlink signals from Mir are strong. Even operation with indoor antennas seems possible.

Packet radio operations from Mir came as quite a surprise to many who expected operations to begin in March. While BBS operations took place for several days last week, it remains to be seen when or if operations from U2MIR can generally be made at any time, since the station can be run in an unattended mode while the cosmonauts are sleeping or busy with other work. (Thanks K2BD)

● Exam Express is the name of a new VE examination program that will be initiated February 1 by the W5YI-VEC. The objective of the new testing program is to make testing widely available to those who wish to enter amateur radio at the new Codeless Technician level.

Basically it works like this: Amateur Extra and Advanced Class amateurs who wish to conduct only Technician examinations will be forwarded a kit containing:

(1.) Special MS-DOS computer software that automatically generates up to 10 properly constructed Element 2 and 3(A) examinations. Every test will be different to

preserve examination integrity. The correct answers (for VE use) and a separate blank answer sheet (for the applicant to fill in) prints out after each examination. (System requirements: IBM compatible PC, MS-DOS 2.11 or higher, 256K memory, 5-1/4" floppy drive, hard drive desirable but not necessary.)

(2.) You may also elect to examine applicants right at the computer keyboard; in which case a scored answer sheet will be automatically generated after the test.

(3.) Testing teams of three volunteer examiners, one of which (the "Contact" the lead VE that we will deal with) must hold an Amateur Extra Class operator license and must agree to conduct a minimum of four examination sessions annually. All testing may be conducted anytime at the option of the VE team for as few as one person. A public notice and three VE's are required in every case, however.

(4.) Complete instructions and the necessary forms will be forwarded to you. Expense reimbursement (currently \$5.25 per examinee) is shared by the VEC with the VE team.

To be accredited into the *Exam Express* program, three VE's must submit a copy of their operator license plus the following affidavit: "I am a currently licensed Extra (or Advanced) Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

We will send you your accreditation

documents and testing materials by return mail. Cost is only \$5.00 (a reimbursable expense) including postage for the testing package.

Send at least three accreditation affidavits (with operator license copies) to: W5YI-VEC, P.O. Box #565101, Dallas, TX 75356. Tell us you want to join the *Exam Express* testing program.

● You'll be hearing some *new Canadian callsign prefixes* during March and April to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. The prefixes:

Special/Normal	Location
VO7 VO1	Newfoundland
VO8 VO2	Labrador
VC1 VY1	Yukon
VC2 VY2	Prince Edward Island
VC9 VY9	Dept. of Communic.
VA1 VE1	Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
VA2 VE2	Quebec
VA3 VE3	Ontario
VA4 VE4	Manitoba
VA5 VE5	Saskatchewan
VA6 VE6	Alberta
VA7 VE7	British Columbia
VA8 VE8	Northwest Territories

● *Rick Sohl, WB5MPX* of Alpine, Texas, has filed a petition with the FCC requesting that new Technician class licensees be issued Group "D" (2-by-3) call sign formats instead of Group "C" (1-by-3). He argues that the Technician Class is now an entry level and that the current Group "C" callsign series will not support a large amount of users. "A new call sign would not be available until the code free technician upgrades to the General class or higher."

● ICOM has a new video entitled *"More Than Radios"* which was created and produced by Zman Productions. Zman Productions is owned by *Chuck/KE7SA* and *Dixie/N7OYY Zappala* of Bothell, WA.

The 28 minute video (VHS format) highlights the importance of bringing others into the hobby. It sends a special message to all amateur operators in a very unique way. The video is set in various towns throughout Washington state. A limited number of tapes are available from: ICOM America, Inc., 2380 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, WA 98004, and must be ordered on your ham club letterhead.

● *"Woodpecker" hit by Budget Cuts!* The January issue of the *"Journal of Electronic Defense"* says the Air Force's OTH-B (Over-the-Horizon HF) Radar Program has been forced to make drastic cuts in attempts to help balance the budget. It is the scanning of the radio spectrum by O-T-H radar that causes the woodpecker-like tapping noise on the high frequency bands. They are actually radar pulses bounced off the ionosphere.

● A recent issue of *WIA News* (Wireless Institute of Australia) says "With the forthcoming *World Administrative Radio Conference* in 1992, amateurs may expect to see *more proposals to reduce the CW qualifications*, or to make other modifications to amateur license requirements. However, present indications are that the lifting of the Morse code requirement will not be considered until the next WARC scheduled for 1998."

● The *Foundation for Amateur Radio*, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC, plans to *award 36 scholarships for the 1991-1992 academic year*. Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or

technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to May 31, 1991 from: **FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740.**

● **What privileges do I have in Canada if I have a Technician class license?** Well, it all depends on which Technician license you have! Codeless Technicians may operate on all bands above 30 MHz with up to 250 watts. Technician class amateurs who have passed 5 WPM code additionally get to operate CW on all bands below 30 MHz while visiting Canada.

● **K2BSA, the national headquarters amateur radio station of the Boy Scouts of America has a new home!** It will be located at Camp Wisdom in southwest Dallas county, Texas.

Since the Boy Scouts of America moved its national headquarters from New Brunswick, N.J. to Irving, Texas in 1980 the station has been without a permanent home. Final approval came January 22 when the executive committee of the Circle 10 Scout Council of Dallas approved locating the station to Camp Wisdom, a Boy Scout camp near Cedar Hill, Texas.

"We're thrilled that K2BSA will now have a permanent home," said station trustee **W. W. "Dan" Dansby, W5URI** of Fort Worth. We've been working for years to secure a permanent place for the station and now we have one of the best anyone could ask for." Cedar Hill has the highest land in elevation in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and all of the dozen television stations in both cities are located

there. K2BSA is sponsored by the **K2BSA Amateur Radio Association**, a nationwide organization of ham radio operators and scouts throughout the United States.

K2BSA was originated in 1968 at the BSA's former national headquarters in New Jersey by **Walter Maxwell, W2DU**, who now resides in Deland, Florida. The first call-sign assigned by the FCC was K3BSA, a call good for only two weeks during that year's national jamboree.

Later the station was assigned the call K2BFW, until the FCC approved suing the present K2BSA in June 1971. The station was located inside a museum at the scout headquarters until its move to Texas. It had only one operating position.

Dansby became trustee in 1983 and lead repeated attempts to find the station a permanent home, which finally culminated in the Camp Wisdom site. The station will be operational during the first quarter of 1991 in temporary quarters in the camp's trading post.

However, an existing 30 by 50 foot foundation will be utilized for a permanent building, Dansby said. "The building will fit in with the log cabins and rock exterior of other structures already at Camp Wisdom," he added.

There is adequate land for several towers and we'll be able to erect more than just an average station. We will be a high powered station," Dansby said. "We will hit the whole spectrum of amateur operations," he added, noting that the multi-operator positions will include packet, AMTOR, satellite, VHF/UHF, high frequency and amateur television modes.

Initial plans call for the station to operate one weekend a month and on *Jamboree-on-the-Air* weekend in October. JOTA brings thousands of scouts worldwide together via amateur radio," Dansby said.

Besides the radio operations, Dansby said the building will be large enough to hold educational programs involving scouting and amateur radio. The radio station will also be the main control station for an amateur radio network of 29 scout associations throughout the world. "We invite all hams and scouts alike to listen for K2BSA's new voice."

For additional information, Dansby may be contacted at: 5805 Walla Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76133 (Tel. 817/292-5019)

● The FCC recently issued a list of countries with which the United States has made arrangements to grant a reciprocal operating permit. (See next page.) Missing from that list is Thailand, but according to a bulletin issued by RAST (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand), **"Thailand and the United States of America have entered into a reciprocal amateur radio licensing agreement which went into effect December 15, 1990."**

The amateur licensing reciprocal agreement is the first of its kind that Thailand has entered into. "At least two other countries have sought permission for their nationals to operate amateur radio from Thailand on a reciprocal licensing basis. These are Spain and Chile."

"In all there are over 50,000 licensed radio amateurs in Thailand, the great majority of whom operate on VHF (144-146 MHz) and hold a novice class license. However, 104 out of a total of 236 who sat the second intermediate class license in November have passed. In addition, a further 15 Thais hold intermediate class licenses after passing this exam in 1989."

So it appears you will be hearing more HF (7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz) activity coming from HS-land! [Info from: **Tony Waltham/G4UAV**, RAST liaison officer.]

RECIPROCAL OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The FCC has released the following updated list of countries that have a reciprocal amateur licensing arrangement with the United States:

Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada (Canadian amateurs do not need a reciprocal operating permit when operating in the United States), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark (including Greenland), Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France (including French Guiana, French Polynesia (Gambier, Marquesas, Society, and Tubuai Islands and Tuamotu Archipelago), Guadeloupe, Ile Amsterdam, Ile Saint-Paul, Iles Crozet, Iles Kerguelen, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and Wallis and Futuna Islands), Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Republic of South Africa, Spain, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Tuvalu, United Kingdom (including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Saint Helena and Turks & Caicos Islands), Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

80 METER NOVICE SUBBAND RELOCATED

We have finally received a copy of the *Report and Order* that we wrote about in our last issue concerning relocation of the Novice 80 meter subband to 3675-3725. The Order is in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* issued by the Commission on February 26, 1990.

The objective was to relieve interference to the 80m Novice telegraphy segment. The frequencies in the upper half of the 80m Novice CW segment are used by amateur stations in Canada for voice transmissions. The relocation was offered as a solution to the mutual interference problem.

The ARRL agreed that the FCC proposal had merit, but wanted the 80m Novice segment expanded by 25 kHz to 3675-3750 kHz. The League noted that "...the principal means that Technician Class licensees have for upgrading to General Class licenses is by increasing their proficiency in telegraphy skills, and the high frequency

Novice segment is an important element in this process."

Some commenters believed that moving the 80m Novice subband was premature in light of a proposal in Canada to allow the amateur community to determine its own emission type subbands. The FCC said that "If interference increases as a result of the implementation of the Canadian deregulatory proposals ...we can evaluate the situation at that time and propose whatever adjustments are needed.

"In addition to our proposal to move the 80m Novice segment 25 kHz down the band, we have considered the suggestion made by ARRL to expand the segment by 25 kHz. Under the ARRL approach, however, stations having Novice and Technician Class control operators would have to share the entire enlarged 80m Novice segment, 3675-3750 kHz, with United States amateur stations that transmit emission types CW, RTTY, and data using higher power. They would also have to continue to share the 3725-3750 kHz segment with the Canadian telephony stations.

"Although the Novice and Technician Class operators would have access to a larger-frequency segment in the 80m band, they would have to share it with large numbers of United States stations transmitting with much higher power.

"While amateur stations having Technician, General, Advanced or Amateur Extra Class control operators may generally transmit with a transmitter power not exceeding 1500 watts, no station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 200 watts in the 80, 40, and 15m band Novice segments.

"Rather than less interference to stations operated by Novice and Technician Class operators, it is likely that there would be more. Because such an outcome is directly contrary to our objective, we decline to adopt ARRL's suggestion."

The FCC ruled "We will adopt the rule change proposed in the NPRM to relocate the 80m Novice segment to 3675-3725 kHz. This rule change will serve to reduce the amount of mutual interference between United States amateur stations and Canadian amateur stations. In addition, it will provide Novice and Technician Class control operators with more opportunities to improve their telegraphy skills." The newly relocated 3675-3725 Novice CW subband is effective: March 16, 1991.

(Report & Order released: January 18, 1991)